

June 18, 2005

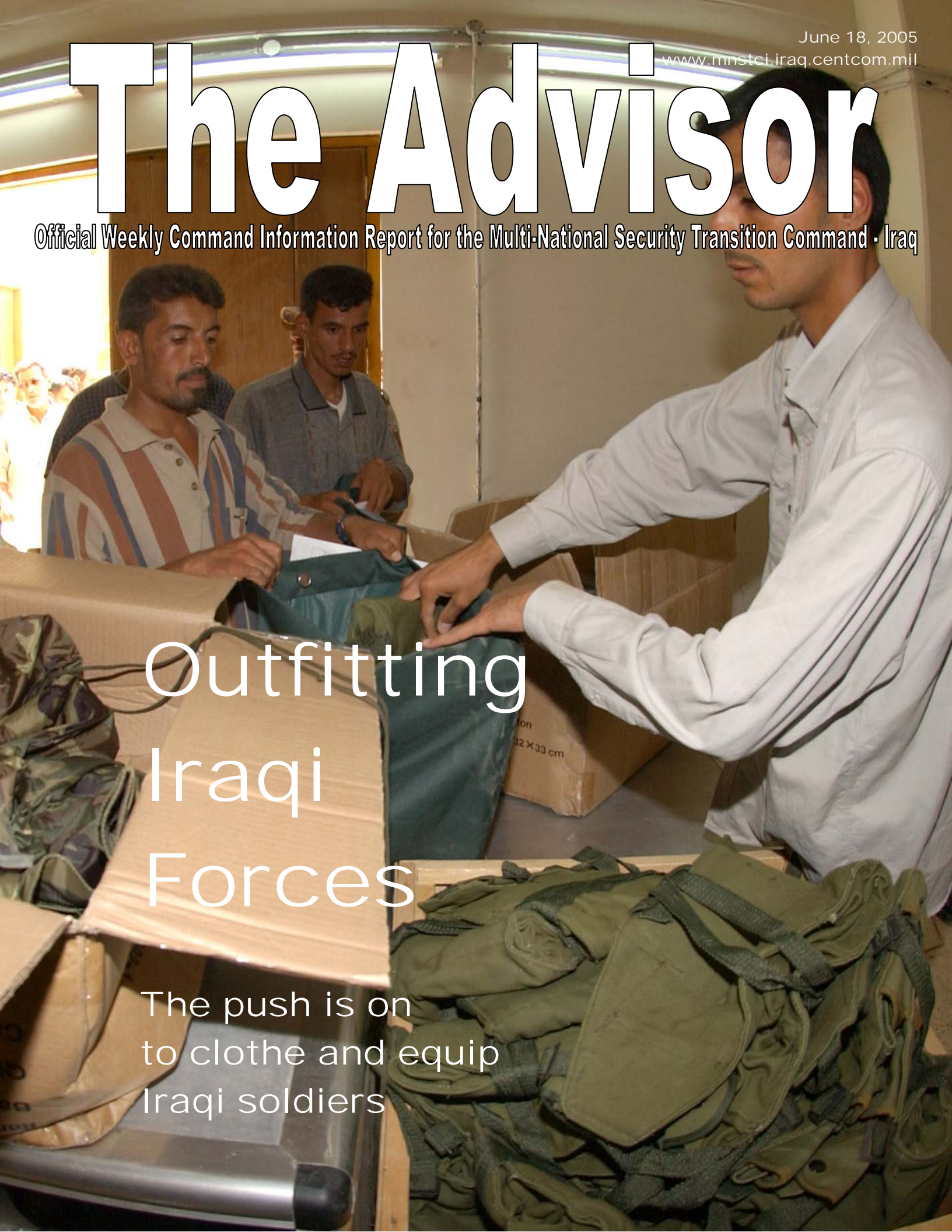
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The Advisor

Official Weekly Command Information Report for the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq

Outfitting Iraqi Forces

The push is on
to clothe and equip
Iraqi soldiers



June 18, 2005

MNSTC-I

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Cover: The MNSTC-I logistical mission has ramped-up in the past few months, especially at Kirkush Military Training Base.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Iraqi forces growing more capable

By U.S. Army Capt. Steve Alvarez

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The June 14 capture of Muhammad Khalaf Shakar reflects the growing intolerance of the Iraqi people for an "unpopular insurgency" and shows the increasing capability of Iraqi security forces, a U.S. military official in Iraq said.

Shakar, also known as Abu Talha, was captured in a quiet Mosul neighborhood. U.S. officials said he is terrorist leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's most trusted operations



Training by Iraqi Security Forces has given the Iraqi people confidence in fighting the insurgency.

Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Larry George

agent in Iraq. "Over the past few months we've had considerable success taking apart the Abu Talha network in the Mosul area," said Air Force Brig. Gen. Donald Alston, a spokesman for Multinational Force Iraq, in a June 16 Baghdad news conference. "This success has included killing or capturing cell leaders, car-bomb makers, financiers, extortionists, kidnappers, foreign fighters, as well as those Iraqis who support terrorists."

Alston said the capture occurred in part due to "constant pressure" applied to the insurgency by Coalition and Iraqi forces, but also because of cooperation from Iraqis.

"This is a major defeat for the al Qaeda terrorist organization in Iraq. Zarqawi's leader in Mosul is out of business," Alston said.

Previous reports indicated Talha wore a suicide vest 24 hours a day and that he would never surrender. Instead, Talha gave up without a fight, according to U.S. Central Command officials.

"Information from Iraqi citizens contributed to the capture of Abu Talha, further evidence this increasingly unpopular insurgency has ordinary people stepping up against terror," Alston said.

Meanwhile, the same day in Kirkuk, a homicide bomber detonated himself in a crowded area of the city. Alston said retired Iraqis were in a bank line waiting to cash their pension checks. The attacker pushed a cart with explosives in front of the bank and detonated the bomb, killing two dozen and wounding 90.

Despite terrorists' claims, Alston said, older civilians were the targets

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"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)

Australian hostage grateful to Iraqi, U.S. Armies

By U.S. Army Spc. Erin Robicheaux

256th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP TIGERLAND, Iraq — Held hostage by terrorists for six weeks, Australian Douglas Wood was rescued June 15 by soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division while conducting cordon-and-search missions to locate and destroy terrorist cells in the Al Adel neighborhood of northwest Baghdad.

Hours after his rescue, Wood was still giving thumbs up to the soldiers who found him hidden under a blanket.

"I'm so glad to see you blokes!" an elated Douglas Wood exclaimed in his thick Australian accent.



Douglas Wood shares a laugh with U.S. Army Brig. Gen. John Basilica Jr., commander of the 256th Brigade Combat Team. Wood was held captive by insurgents in northwest Baghdad until his June 15 rescue by Iraqi soldiers, who were assisted by the 256th BCT.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Chris Foster

The IA brigade was assisted by Task Force Baghdad's 256th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

"The 256th Brigade conducted comprehensive offensive operations for the past month in some of the most hostile neighborhoods of Baghdad," said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. John Basilica Jr., commander of the 256th BCT. "Most of these operations were joint combat patrols with Iraqi Army units. We provided military transition teams who advised each unit and partnered with them in combat operations."

U.S. Army Capt. Randy Green, a 256th BCT senior adviser to the IA battalion, was with the Iraqi unit throughout the duration of the mission. Green said that after his rescue, Wood could not stop talking about the Iraqi Army.

"Mr. Wood had just been freed and given his whole life back, and of the six or seven times that he and I spoke, all he could talk about was that a group of IA soldiers found him and what a great job they'd done," said Green.

Wood was kidnapped in late April by terrorists claiming to be with the Shura Council of the Mujahedeen of Iraq.

Around 10 a.m. on June 15, the Iraqi soldiers were preparing to search a house when they saw movement inside. They approached, and after knocking repeatedly on the door, surrounded the house with 10 soldiers and breached the entrance. Fifteen soldiers of the IA battalion raced in and were attacked by terrorists firing bullets at their heads. But the terrorists were no match for the IA soldiers and were ultimately subdued.

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Iraqi forces

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of this attack, continuing the trend of attacks specifically aimed at civilians in Iraq. Alston noted that possibly thousands of Iraqi civilians have been killed since Zarqawi proclaimed in May that civilians were legitimate targets for his bomb squads.

Iraqi Security Forces have suffered significant casualties in recent months, too. While he could not provide a definitive number, Alston said Iraqi forces have taken more casualties recently, partly due to their increase in numbers, but also due to their increased operational tempo.

"There are roughly 169,000 Iraqi Po-

lice and Iraqi Army troops that are in the fight," Alston said. "Their confidence and their growing capability make them what the enemy would call a necessary target, because as every day goes by and as their confidence grows, they become even more of a substantiated threat to the insurgency."

The Iraqi Security Forces show "great promise in their ability to continue to shoulder the load here in fighting this insurgency," Alston said. However, he added, Iraqi forces are still growing and learning.

"It is essential for us to not forget that we started this army from scratch a year ago and they've come a long way to be where they are today – from

virtually no organization, to over 100 battalions today," Alston said.

Alston pointed to successful operations throughout Iraq as an indicator that the Iraqi forces were gaining more momentum. Specifically, he referred to the Talha capture, in which Iraqi forces supported Coalition forces. He also pointed to the rescue of Australian Douglas Wood, who was taken hostage earlier this year.

Iraqi military forces discovered Wood as they conducted routine operations. The Iraqis had not planned a rescue mission, but discovered Wood nonetheless using what Alston described as "a combination of training, a combination of instinct, and professionalism."

Clothing and equipping soldiers a focal point in standing up the Iraqi Security Forces



New Iraqi Army recruits make their way through the Central Issue Facility at Kirkush Military Training Base, where a six-man MNSTC-I team oversees the equipping and clothing of two divisions.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

KIRKUSH, Iraq – A logistical push to equip and clothe Iraqi forces in the multinational north-central district has effectively doubled the mission, in recent months, of the six-man crew fronting the effort at Kirkush Military Training Base.

The team, made up of one officer and five noncommissioned officers with the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq's J-4 (logistics), is tasked with equipping two Iraqi Army divisions with the items they need to shoot, move and communicate – as well as individual soldier gear such as uniforms, boots, body armor and hygiene kits.

In a one month period ending May 20, KMTB's Central Issue Facility (CIF) issued just over 25,000 sets of uniforms, 12,586 pairs of boots and 4,997 sets of body armor. Iraqi soldiers also received 1,039 AK-47s, 364 pistols, 53 small and large vehicles, five fuel tankers, 24 GP medium tents, 80 UAZ trailers, and nearly 660,000 rounds of ammunition in the same time frame, according to J-4 records.



U.S. Army Col. Randy Hinton (left), of MNSTC-I's J-4 logistics gets briefed on CIF operations at Kirkush Military Training Base by U.S. Army Capt. James Smith, who heads the J-4 logistics at KMTB. Problems with the quality of Iraqi footwear has been solved by buying and issuing the same boots U.S. Soldiers receive, Smith said.

Photo by U.S. Army

Since November, about 8,000 AK-47s and 1,200 PKM semi-automatic rifles, along with 5.2 million rounds of ammunition for those weapons, said U.S. Army Sgt. Julian With, who coordinates distribution of weapons.

An average of two air missions arrive each week, loaded with uniforms and gear destined for Iraqi units, said U.S. Army Master Sgt. Jeffery Sims, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the team.

Two missions arrived the same night last week, keeping the men working until 5 a.m. the next day. After a few hours of sleep, they were back at work. U.S. Army Sgt. Jeff Kilmer, who oversees the CIF, had a glitch to deal with. While 7,500 sets of uniforms were expected, they instead received 13,000 pairs of pants and 6,000 jackets.

It happened that U.S. Army Capt. Susan Kane, J-4's officer in charge of distribution, was visiting the team that day with her boss, U.S. Army Col. Randy Hinton. She immediately went to work straightening it out.

Kane and other officials acknowledge the pace is a few notches above hectic and expectations are high.

"The hope is that once we reach 85 percent of authorized strength equipped with shoot, move and communicate items, we can start moving into a sustainment mode," Kane said. That goal should be met by the end of June, she added. "That's a big job, and they're doing great."

Sims, Kilmer, With, and others on the team – U.S. Army Capt. James Smith, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Everton Palmer and U.S. Army Cpl. Terrance Low – credit the Iraqi civilians that work with them in helping them keep the pace. They have 26 working in the CIF and weapons and vehicle distributions.

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Logistics

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"We've got a great crew," Kilmer said. "They are what get us through the day."

Some of the biggest challenges to the equipping effort when the team started last year were corruption and a lack of accountability, they said. Rather than distribute bulk issues down to individual soldiers, some unit leaders were hoarding items. On top of that, the contractor who handled issuing items prior to their arrival, did not use hand receipts, With said.

"That was the biggest headache," With said. "We didn't know what was where, so we had to go out to each unit, inventory everything, and have them sign hand receipts."

The corruption has eased tremendously, they added, since many units have moved on and the use of hand receipts makes it easier to hold people accountable for items.

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Laude, a MNSTC-I adviser with the Iraqi Training Battalion at KMTB, accompanies new Iraqi soldiers to CIF and assists the crew there with issuing uniforms and other items. He's watched more than 4,000 recruits make their way through the process since November.

The CIF at KMTB flows smoothly and is comparable to the facilities U.S. Soldiers go through for their uniform and equipment issues, Laude said. The only problem he's seen was with the Iraqi-made boots the soldiers were issued. After about three weeks of wear, they would start falling apart, he said. Now that soldiers are getting the same quality boots U.S. troops wear, that problem is gone, Laude said.

"Other than that, there are no complaints," he said.



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Laude helps distribute items to Iraqi Training Battalion recruits he advises at Kirkush Military Training Base. Laude says the CIF operation at KMTB is comparable to those at U.S. military bases.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

There are three other CIFs that fall under MNSTC-I, Kane said. They are in Al Kisik, An Numaniyah and Taji, where a national distribution warehouse is also located. As the Iraqis take control of their own logistics, the plan is for each Iraqi Army division to have its own CIF, she said.

"They'll be Iraqi run, with Iraqi purchased equipment," Kane said.

British Lt. Col. William Mead, the deputy J-4, and others don't have any predictions on how soon that will happen. But Mead is encouraged by the successes he's seen in the six months he's served with MNSTC-I, most notably the integration of Iraqi staff officers into the command's J-4 and at the Taji CIF.

"That really is the first step in transitioning," Mead said. "Integration at all levels is vitally important. More and more, they want to take on the responsibility of their own logistics. We just have to make sure they're set up for success for the future, not just in the short term."

Rescue

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When soldiers questioned them about the figure under the covers in the bed next to them, the terrorists said it was a sick female. Wood later told the U.S. Soldiers that when they were aware of military forces coming into the house, his captors threatened to shoot him if he moved or made a sound.

The terrorists, who claimed they were guards for a 15-man cell, told the Iraqi soldiers they had previously murdered three other hostages just two weeks earlier, one of whom was a Ministry of Interior general.

Extracting Wood from the site was a challenge. The terrorists told Green and IA commanders they called their friends, who were on their way to stop the forces from bringing Wood to safety.

"We set up a perimeter with (U.S. Soldiers) on the outer cordon," said Green. "If they were going to get to Iraqi soldiers, they were going to have to get through us first."

In the end, Wood was transported to the 256th BCT medical facility on Camp Liberty with no further engagements with the terrorists.

U.S. Army Cpl. Ryan Simon, Com-

pany C, 1st Battalion, 156th Armored Regiment was at the scene when the IA brought Wood out of the house. He said at first he felt disbelief, followed by utter gratitude for the man's life.

"When it was radioed in about what was happening, I thought, 'Yeah, right.' But when I saw him and saw that this was real, I was just so overwhelmed," said Simon.

"This is proof positive of the coverage and competence of the new Iraqi Army," said Basilica. "They are making excellent progress and have done a super job. This was a great day for the Iraqi Army."

CMATT commander sees another side of operations

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – In his first four months in country, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Daniel Bolger watched the war through an American viewfinder as the deputy commander of Multi-National Forces – Iraq.

Now he's getting an entirely new perspective as the commander of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq's Coalition Military Assistance Training Team (CMATT).



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Daniel Bolger

"It's the same war, but now I'm looking at it from the Iraqi side," said Bolger, who joined the MNSTC-I team about two weeks ago to replace U.S. Army Brig. Gen. James Schwitters. "On the Corps side, the focus is on regular operations. Here, it's all about working with the Iraqis. There's a big difference."

Bolger spent his first 10 days or so traveling with Schwitters, visiting all the major bases with Iraqi troops from Mosul to Umm Qasar. The orientation gave him a good basis for understanding CMATT's reach and seeing first-hand the progress made in standing up the Iraqi Army, he said.

"I've been impressed," Bolger said. "Especially when you consider that it was just a year ago that Iraq declared itself a sovereign nation. You don't really see the progress until you get out there."

He's been especially moved by the number of Iraqis in and out of uniform that work in support of their country.

Not only are they targets of the insurgents, but their family members are in danger as well.

"And yet almost every single one that I talked to said they're happy to do it," he said.

In a little more than 27 years in the Army, Bolger notes that his family has never been threatened because of his service. Married with two teenagers, he served with the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, Ky., as the assistant division commander for support prior to coming to Iraq.

Other assignments include chief of staff of the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea; 101st battalion commander and division operations officer; history professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; and chief analyst at the U.S. Joint Forces Command. Bolger, 47, attended the U.S. Army War College and Command and General Staff College. He has a bachelor's degree in history from the Citadel; masters and doctorate degrees in history from the University of Chicago.



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Daniel Bolger went on a foot patrol with Iraqi troops in Mosul during an orientation visit as the new CMATT commander.

Photos by U.S. Army Capt. Al Simmons

One of Bolger's primary goals as CMATT commander is building the Iraqi forces' ability to sustain combat operations for both long and short terms.

"One thing we need to look at is getting them to a point where they can sustain operations out in the field, away from their bases," he said. "In the long term, they need to make an investment in the heart of their forces, the NCOs."

It's easy to let those with experience and ability lead the way, Bolger said, but the smart thing to do is to rotate troops through a variety of positions so they can build their knowledge and skills.

Force generation is another goal, he said. Attention now is on standing up the last of the large units, such as the 7th Division to the west in Anbar province where U.S. Marines are covering down. Once that's done, the focus will be on enhancing existing units, he said.

"The war will not be won by killing every bad guy," Bolger said, emphasizing the importance of training, equipping and mentoring the Iraqi forces. "The war will be won by getting control of the country for the Iraqis."



During a recent visit to the Iraqi Military Academy at Ar Rustamiyah, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Daniel Bolger addressed students.

Operation Moon River Dragon targets suspected insurgent

By U.S. Army Sgt. Matthew Acosta
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SAMARRA, Iraq – “Contact is imminent. Intel reports this guy does not want to be captured and may be wearing a suicide belt to prevent this,” warned U.S. Army Capt. Robert Croft, commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry, Task Force Liberty. “Be very cautious.”

Members of the Iraqi Army and Soldiers from 1-15 Infantry surrounded several objectives in the village of AlJulaam as Operation Moon River Dragon commenced May 29 in hopes of apprehending the battalion’s second-most-wanted suspected insurgent.

An Iraqi Army platoon from Company D, 203rd Battalion led the assault, with support from 100 Task Force Liberty infantrymen from Croft’s unit and an M-1 Abrams tank company, as they searched the town sector by sector.

The soldiers worked in a coordinated manner, with Iraqi soldiers evacuating occupants from homes and Coalition Soldiers following to search the homes.

“The Iraqi Army cleared the houses of all occupants and performed a hasty search of the home,” said U.S. Army Spc. James Dalton, infantryman. “After the house was clear, U.S. Soldiers were sent into the houses to do a more detailed search.”

Iraqi soldiers escorted villagers to a designated safe house in the town where the males were questioned about insurgent activity.



Iraqi soldiers clear a home in the village of AlJulaam during a search for a high-ranking, suspected insurgent during Operation Moon River Dragon.
Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Matthew Acosta

Although only the males were interrogated, the women and children were brought to the site for their safety, and to allow the Coalition Soldiers to move freely from house to house.

Overall, the unit questioned more than 40 males, but did not find their target.

“No one was arrested, but the interrogations yielded valuable information to continue to pursue the targets, limiting their operational freedom,” Croft said.

“When Iraqi soldiers are in the lead giving instructions, things happen more quickly and with less confusion. The effect is that the operation is safer for both U.S. Soldiers and Iraqi civilians.”

— U.S. Army Capt. Robert Croft

Iraqi Army units are being integrated with the U.S. Soldiers on an increasing level as they gain more experience in combat operations, the Soldiers said.

“We have been operating jointly with Company D for more than three months,” Croft said. “In our short time with them, they have become much better at both preparing for missions and actually conducting operations on the ground.”

Dalton agreed.

“I like working with the Iraqi Army,” Dalton said. “We’re trying to get them to take the lead and be more proactive in combat operations and eventually they will take over operations entirely.”

“Although we didn’t make contact with enemy forces as anticipated, I think they handled themselves pretty well,” he added.

Not only does the Iraqi unit add manpower to the mission, but their local knowledge and strong presence with the Iraqi people provide credibility for Coalition forces, Croft said.

“The IA presence completely changes the dynamic of the operation,” Croft said. “People will cooperate with us just the same. However, when Iraqi soldiers are in the lead giving the instructions, things happen much more quickly and with less confusion. The effect is that the operation is safer for both U.S. Soldiers and Iraqi civilians.”

Imminent danger or not, the Soldiers of Task Force Liberty along with members of the Iraqi Army will continue to assault the insurgency, rooting the terrorists out from the comfort of hiding in small communities, until their job is done.

Phoenix Academy prepares advisers for life with Iraqi forces

By Sgt. Lorie Jewell

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq – In its first weeks of operation, the Phoenix Academy indoctrinated more than 500 Coalition troops into living and working with Iraqi Security Forces.

The academy, operated by the Iraqi Assistance Group (Provisional) at Taji's military base, aims to better prepare those who will be mentoring and assisting Iraqi forces through Military Transition Teams, Police Transition Teams, Special Police Transition Teams and Border Transition Teams. The teams fall under Multi-National Forces – Iraq.

The 10-day course features about 22 classes on topics such as cultural awareness; crisis management; working with translators; the organization and function of Iraqi forces; how the Iraqi rules of engagement compare to the rules U.S. and Coalition troops must abide by; and techniques and procedures. They also eat all of their meals in a dining facility that serves Iraqi-style food.

Some of the courses are taught by Iraqi instructors, with the bulk led by those who have experience in training and mentoring Iraqi troops. Most of the Coalition instructors come from the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq's Coalition Military Assistance Training Team (CMATT) and the Civilian Assistance Training Team (CPATT). Each team has Advisor Support Teams working with Iraqi forces.

"This is the number one focus in theater right now," said U.S. Army Col. Robert Lawless, officer in charge of the academy, referring to the mentoring of the Iraqi forces. "That's what the teams are all about. We're giving them a set of skills necessary to get to that end state, which is to reduce the Coalition presence as the Iraqis take control."

The Phoenix Academy concept started to form late last year. It took root a few months ago, with the location and buildings turned over to the IAG (P) March 10. The first class consisted of 205 students, the second had 15, and the third, 40.

One night of the course is set aside for an evening at the Iraqi Officer's Club, where students socialize with their Iraqi counterparts. Building relationships is a big part of finding success in working with Iraqi troops, said Lawless.



U.S. Army Capt. Scott Downing presents information about weapons commonly used by Iraqi soldiers to a class of Phoenix Academy Marines. Downing is an adviser with the 1st Iraqi Mechanized Brigade.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. James H. Schwitters, the recently-departed CMATT commander, reinforced the importance of relationships during a May class called Iraq 101. In the instruction, he discussed how the effort to assist Iraq rebuild its security forces began and where things stand now. He also shared his personal experiences and insights.

"Your ability to do your job, your mission, hinges on your ability to form relationships with them," said Schwitters. "It doesn't take long to get to know them. They are an extraordinarily generous and polite society."

Many of the Coalition students are on their second or third tours in Iraq. The mission they are tasked with this time around is a stark contrast to what many were doing in previous missions. Some fought against the previous Iraqi Army in early 2003, and are now about to work side by side with the new Iraqi Army.



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class David Catani discusses an AK-47 automatic rifle, typical of the weapons Iraqi soldiers use, to a class of Marines at the Phoenix Academy as U.S. Army Capt. Scott Downing, another instructor, observes. Catani and Downing are advisers with the 1st Iraqi Mechanized Brigade.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

"This is going to be completely different from the last time I was here," said a U.S. Marine lieutenant colonel, who asked that his name not be used. "But I, and many others, are really looking forward to it. It will tap into everything we've ever learned about military tactics, but also relationship building. It's probably the most multi-faceted task anyone could have."

Schwitters stressed the importance of putting their best efforts into building positive relationships. The rewards will be tremendous, he said.

Tiger Battalion leads the way in military transition operation

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Peter Towse

42nd Infantry Division Public Affairs

BAQUBAH, Iraq – Soldiers of the 205th Iraqi Army Battalion, also known as the Tiger Battalion, was out front recently on Operation Sergeant Thea'a, an effort to rid the city of terrorists.

The operation, named for the most recent Iraqi soldier killed in action, was a first involving the Military Transition Team concept.

"A MiTT is an embedded concept," said U.S. Army Capt. Michael Whitney, commander of Company A, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty. "We link up with our Iraqi counterparts and offer mentorship, advice and training. We go on missions together and we help each other during and after the mission."

The purpose of Operation Sergeant Thea'a is to capture or kill terrorists in the city of Baqubah, leaders said.

"I am sure this mission will be a success," said Iraqi Pvt. Waleed Sattar Jabar, of the 205th Iraqi Army Battalion. "It will be a success because the Iraqi Army is always successful."

A handful of officers from 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, working as observers, sat in on a briefing of the mission.

"What we are trying to do here is transition," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Roger Cloutier, commander of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment. "We want the Iraqi Army out front. We want to help the Iraqi people help themselves."

"We have been preparing for this mission for a few weeks," said Iraqi Col. Dhia Ismael Abid Al Tamimi, commander of the 205th. "My soldiers planned the mission, will do the mission and will fight if they have to."

Iraqi Army vehicles converged on city streets as more than 150 Iraqi soldiers cordon off a section and start the search. Walking house to house, they quietly searched each room for any information that would lead them to anti-Iraq forces.

"They are doing remarkably well," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Lloyd Pegues, an instructor, Iraqi Army Academy. "They knock, greet the man of the house and respectfully check the house. If they find something, they take the proper measures to collect or detain what they find. If they do not find anything, they hand out pamphlets and leave."

Baqubah residents greeted the soldiers with smiles and

welcomed them into their homes, offering tea and bread. "We believe in the Iraqi Army and think that what they are doing is a good thing," said a 30-year resident of Baqubah. "We have [a lot of] confidence in them."

During the operation, six people were detained for questionable actions and missing identification cards.

"The Iraqi Army did very [well] today," said Iraqi Cpt. Wahab Ali Abid Altememy, a 205th officer. "The Iraqi civilians cooperated with us and they gave us information about the bad guys."



Iraqi soldiers talk to a Baqubah resident during Operation Sergeant Thea'a, an effort to rid the city of terrorists. A Military Transition Team from Task Force Liberty's 3rd Brigade Combat Team worked with Iraqi soldiers from the Tiger Battalion.

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Peter Towse

Each street was blocked from traffic as foot soldiers and yellow pickup trucks with machine guns provided security.

"My job, as an Iraqi officer, is to provide security to the Iraqi civilians," Al Tamimi said. "The Iraqi Army and the Iraqi civilians worked together today and that makes for a good situation."

Coalition forces remained in the background of the operation, giving advice when needed and making sure the operation was a success.

"They are doing excellent today," Whitney said. "The 205th is the best that I have seen since I have been in country and they can only get better."

As the detainees were loaded into trucks, the Iraqi soldiers continued to pass out pamphlets and interact with the local population as they prepared to leave Baqubah.

"The Tiger [battalion] works for the people of Iraq," Al Tamimi said. "We will achieve success together for the future of Iraq."

Iraqi Marines prepare to take over oil platform security

By U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph Ebalo

U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/5th Fleet

ABOARD AL BASRAH OIL TERMINAL, Iraq — An Iraqi Marine, working with U.S. security forces, said he and fellow Iraqis look forward to taking full responsibility for the security of Al Basrah and Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminals.

"It's my duty to defend [the oil terminal]. It belongs to my country. It belongs to my people. Our economy is based on it. I take pride in doing so," said the Iraqi Marine.

Forward deployed U.S. Sailors attached to Mobile Security Detachment 25, the unit currently assigned to protect Iraq's two critical oil platforms, train Iraqi Naval Marine Force personnel to take over all close-in point defense operations aboard the Al Basrah and Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminals.

"We are not just helping the Iraqis with the safekeeping of their oil terminals, we are teaching them how to soon take over the protection of their country's major asset," said U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Chris Jacobsen, officer in charge of Mobile Security Detachment 25.

The Al Basrah and Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminals are significant sources of revenue for the Iraqi people - revenue that is important to the rebuilding of Iraq.

"It's very important to the way ahead and future of Iraq because it represents about 90 percent of the income for the country of Iraq at this point," said Nichols. "That eco-

nomie activity and the continued growth of economic activity is key to the way ahead for Iraqis determining their future and continuing the political process."

U.S. forces have provided security for the oil terminals since April 2004, after insurgents attempted to attack the oil platforms with an explosives-filled fishing boat.

Mobile Security Detachment 25 arrived on station May 23, relieving Mobile Security Detachment 22 after that detachment's six-month tour aboard the oil platforms ended. Mobile Security Detachment 25 and Coalition forces in the area surrounding the Iraqi oil terminals conduct maritime security operations to set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment.

The maritime security operations compliment the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations as well as deny international terrorists use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons, or other material.

Coalition forces from the United Kingdom and Australia joined the United States in providing Iraqi Sailors and Marines with instruction on basic military procedures and techniques.

"We train on how to stand a proper watch, how to work as a team and how to deal with manning," said U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Myers, a Mobile Security Detachment 25 training team member.

Mobile Security Detachment 25 Sailors drill with Iraqi personnel three to four times a day, stand under-instruction watches and give one-on-one feedback.

"The common goal that we're trying to reach is to get them on their feet and be able to eventually stand the watch themselves," said Myers.

The Iraqis appear eager to master their new role and take on the responsibility.

"It is my duty to protect the future of my people and its economy," said an Iraqi Marine officer aboard the Al Basrah Oil Terminal. "My people are so grateful that the United States, Great Britain, Australia and other Coalition countries have reached out to help us."



An Iraqi sailor armed with a 50 Caliber machine gun joins U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Myers for security duty aboard Al Basrah oil terminal in Iraq, June 13, 2005. The Iraqi Marine force is preparing to take over security duties for their country's only operational offshore terminals from Mobile Security Detachment 25.

U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph Ebalo

NATO equipment shipments top \$30 million

By Iceland Maj. Borkur Gunnarsson

NTM-I Chief Public Information Officer

BAGHDAD, Iraq – NATO member countries are responding to the Iraqi people's desire for increased security in their country by providing more than \$30 million worth of donated arms and equipment this year to support Iraq's Security Forces.

Denmark's shipment of more than 100 9mm pistols was the first to arrive in Baghdad in January. The shipment, which went to the Iraqi Army's 1st Mechanized Brigade in Taji, also included magazines, ammunition, holsters and cleaning kits.

At the end of January came a shipment from Estonia with thousands of AK-47 rifles, small arms and ammunition.



A visit from the top

U.S. Gen. John Abizaid, commander of the U.S. Central Command (right), talks with MNSTC-I leaders (left to right) U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil, CPATT commander; U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Daniel Bolger, CMATT commander; and British Brig. David Clements, deputy commander, during a June 17 visit.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Two additional January shipments from Romania included thousands of AK-47 assault rifles, hundreds of RPK light machine guns, sniper rifles, RPG-7 grenade launchers, and thousands of rounds of ammunitions for the weapons. The shipment from Romania went to the Iraqi Police Services.



A shipment of weapons and equipment arrives from Slovakia at Baghdad International Airport.

Photo by Iceland Maj. Borkur Gunnarsson

In April, shipments of 11,640 AK-47 rifles, 10,080 helmets and 3.9 million rounds of ammunition arrived from Slovenia. It took nine flights, funded by Iceland, to bring in the equipment, which was delivered to Iraqi Security Forces.

A shipment of small arms and ammunition from Latvia arrived this month, with large shipments from Slovakia and Romania expected in July.

Donations of weapons from many of the former Warsaw Pact nations that have now joined NATO are ideal for the Iraqi military because many Iraqis are already familiar with those weapons from the days of the former regime, say Western military experts. While not all are new, all of the weapons are in excellent shape.

"Knowing that the Iraqi people want first and foremost the security situation to be improved, it sure is fulfilling to be able to help with training and equipping the Iraqi armed forces," says Norwegian Col. Bjorn Jenssen, a representative for NATO Training Mission-Iraq (NTM-I) at Baghdad International Airport. When shipments arrive, Jenssen makes sure everything is in place and there are no shortages before they are handed over to Iraqi forces.

In support of NTM-I, the Supreme Allied Command – Transformation, based in Norfolk, Va., established the NATO Training and Equipment Coordination Group in Brussels, Belgium to facilitate NATO Alliance, Partnership for Peace, and other national donations of military equipment and training for the Iraqi Security Forces. The in-country coordination arm is the NTM-I Training, Equipment and Synchronization Cell, which addresses the Iraqi Ministries of Defense and Interior requirements by coordinating the delivery of NATO nation offers of equipment.

NTM-I is here at the request of Iraqi authorities to train and assist Iraqi forces with equipping and technical assistance, not combat operations. NTM-I is a distinct mission led by U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, who also commands the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq.

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Tuz Police find large weapons cache

TUZ – Iraqi police officers recovered a large cache containing a variety of weapons and explosives in the Wadi area east of Tuz June 7. A Coalition explosive ordnance disposal team was contacted to destroy the cache on site.

Iraqi Security Forces discover caches

TAL AFAR – Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division located two separate caches during a cordon and search operation near a cemetery June 7.

They uncovered 11 mortar rounds in the cemetery, and 12 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, one RPG launcher, landmine residue, and several thousand rounds of ammunition at a location nearby. Six suspects were detained, five considered high value targets.

Elsewhere, Iraqi Police and Coalition forces discovered a massive cache near Hammam Al Alil. It consisted of 60 anti-personnel RPGs, four RPG launchers, one 60 mm firing system complete, 12 60 mm mortar rounds, eight 60 mm illumination

rounds, 16 81 mm mortar rounds, 1,000 mortar rounds, 12 105 mm artillery fuses, two 107 mm aircraft rounds, 100 14.7 mm anti-personnel rounds, one bag of IED material (timers, batteries, and wires), one bag of blasting caps, one fragmentary grenade, one bundle of artillery accelerant, two rolls of wire, two 5-foot lengths of time fuse, 12 blasting caps with detonation cord, 1,000 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, and one heavy barrel machine gun.

Combined search leads to hideout

BADUSH – Iraqi police and military units were supported by Coalition troops in a cordon and search operation June 8.

Iraqi commandos searched a house and found one police vehicle, four AK-47 automatic rifles, eight Motorola radios, and three Motorola radio chargers. Three suspects were detained during the raid. Two additional suspects were detained after fleeing from a police commando patrol.

Operation Goat included U.S. Army soldiers from 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment and the 1st Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division.

Sheiks turn over terror suspect

MOSUL – Iraqi Security Forces and Multi-National Forces from 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) detained four suspected terrorists and seized two weapons caches during operations in northern Iraq June 11.

Local Sheiks turned over a terror suspect to Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment. This is the second time that Sheiks have banded together in order to turn in terror suspects to security forces.

Troops from 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division Iraqi Army alongside Soldiers from the 2-8th detained three individuals suspected of terrorist activity during a cordon and search operation south of Qayyarah. Suspects are in custody with no ISF or MNF injuries reported.

Troops from 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Division Iraqi Intervention Force alongside 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment seized a weapons cache during a cordon and search operation in western Mosul. Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment seized a weapons cache while on patrol south of Mosul. (Task Force Freedom Public Affairs)

Iraqi Security Forces nab bomb maker, seize munitions

BAGHDAD — An Iraqi citizen approached an Iraqi Army patrol from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division on the night of June 11 and told them where a suspected bomb manufacturer lived.

The Iraqi patrol went to the house in the Adhamiyah District of central Baghdad and found an anti-tank missile in the initial stages of being made into a bomb. The Soldiers took the bomb maker into custody for questioning.

"The citizen who told the

Iraqi soldiers about the bomb maker saved the lives of a lot of civilians, soldiers and police officers," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson. "It's another exam-

ple of how terrorists' efforts to intimidate Iraqis are failing."

Earlier in the evening, a joint Iraqi and U.S. Military Police patrol noticed

what appeared to be a roadside bomb with red wires leading from the device to a house 50 meters away.

When the joint patrol searched the house, they discovered two concrete blocks with munitions inside, 60 pounds of explosives, two bags of plastic explosives, and radios and pagers set up to be used as trigger devices for the bombs.

The Iraqi Police also found a mold to build more bombs, a map of Baghdad and another map of Baghdad's oil infrastructure, both of which could have been used to identify potential targets. (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)



Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Iraqi Army fields new up-armored vehicle

BAQUBAH – The 1st Iraqi Army Battalion has a new weapon in its arsenal as of June 1. The unit and its soldiers now conduct operations in an up-armored troop tactical transporter, which offers greater protection against roadside bombs, suicide attacks, and small arms fire. The Iraqi soldiers used the vehicle shortly after receiving it during a security operation in Abu Basal. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Iraqi Army practices planning for elections

KIRKUSH – Soldiers from the 2-1-5 IAB and 3-1-5 IAB rehearsed operations June 11 to support future national elections. The rehearsal was conducted through a command post exercise (CPX) named “winds of freedom.” Each battalion operated its own tactical operations center during the eight-hour exercise. Each cell simulated a local JCC with subordinate companies and a higher headquarters. The Iraqi Army units gained valuable experience in planning large operations and command and control. This exercise also gave them experience in conducting missions in their new areas of operation. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Iraqi Army receives recognition on radio

TIKRIT – The Tikrit radio station gave callers a chance to call in and thank Iraqi Army soldiers for their courageous efforts in the fight against the insurgency June 8. The recognition is further evidence of the growing respect people feel for the Iraqi Security Force. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Locals help soldiers find weapons

AL URUBAH – With the help of a local informant, Company C of the 1st Iraqi Army Battalion (IAB), was led to a weapons cache yielding 177 82 mm mortar rounds, fuses, and primers June 13. The mortar rounds were transported to the headquarters of the 1st IAB. Coalition forces picked up the rounds for disposal at FOB Warhorse. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Police capture foreign fighters

BAGHDAD – Iraqi police officers conducted a cordon and search operation here June 12 resulting in the capture of three suspected anti-Iraq force members.

Baghdad Police identified two of

the detainees as Syrian nationals and confiscated three AK-47 automatic rifles.

POB officers engage car bomber

SAMARRA – Members of the local Public Order Battalion were traveling in a police vehicle when they came under attack by anti-Iraq forces driving what they believed to be a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device June 12.

As the threatening vehicle continued to advance on their location, the five POB officers opened fire on the perceived VBIED and caused it to detonate. The POB officers received unspecified injuries as a result of the attack.

Baghdad Police raids yield AIF, weapons

BAGHDAD – Iraqi police officers, supported by Coalition military units, conducted raids in an effort to interrupt anti-Iraq force activity in the area June 13.

Police officers from the Al Mesbah Police Station detained six suspected AIF and captured 140 AK-47 automatic rifles during the raids.

Iraqi, Coalition soldiers detain AIF

AVGANI – Iraqi and Coalition soldiers conducted a combined cordon and search operation which resulted in the capture of nine suspected anti-Iraq forces near here June 13.

Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade, 3rd U.S. Armored Cavalry Regiment and 2nd Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, secured their respective objectives and captured nine suspected insurgents in the process. One hand grenade and three AK-47 automatic rifles were confiscated during the search.

Five of the detainees are being investigated as possible high value targets. Two others are awaiting positive identification. Several vehicles attempting to leave the cordon were stopped and searched.

Looking back

One year ago in Iraq

TOKYO, Japan - Japan's Cabinet has approved a plan for Japanese troops to remain in Iraq as part of a multinational force after an interim government takes control next month.

The decision means that more than 500 Japanese soldiers already in Iraq on a humanitarian mission would be able to continue their work, which involves purifying water, rebuilding education facilities and other reconstruction efforts, Kyodo news agency reported in June 2004.

However, the plan to stay on is expected to divide a Japanese public already at unease over their country's involvement in a combat zone.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has vowed that the troops would stay in Iraq as part of the multinational force.

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Iraqi Army raid targets hired killers

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army soldiers raided an objective here June 14 in search of three suspected anti-Iraq forces believed to be paid assassins for insurgent groups.

Elements of the 1st Division Iraqi Intervention Force apprehended one of the three alleged assassins in the raid.

Operation disrupts AIF activity in Taji

TAJI – An Iraqi Army unit supported by Coalition forces conducted a cordon and search to confirm or deny anti-Iraq force activity in the area June 15.

During the operation, soldiers with 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division found six blasting caps, one bag of ball bearings, two Iraqi Army uniforms, one old Iraqi Army ring, one AIF instruction book, two AIF instructional compact discs, and \$900 U.S. Five suspected AIF members were detained, including two Egyptians who appeared to be immigrants living in Iraq for years.

Iraqi soldiers capture suspects

CHAY KHANAH – Iraqi Army soldiers on patrol June 14 captured a suspected anti-Iraq force member believed to be involved in insurgent activities.

Elements of the 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division detained one male Iraqi national at a gas station. During questioning, the suspect admitted to four murders and 17 car-jackings.

Iraqi Army continues to battle IEDs

FALLUJAH – An Iraqi Army unit discovered a suspected improvised explosive device here June 14.

Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force found a two foot by four foot block of concrete with wires protruding from it. An explosive ordnance removal team later confirmed that the block contained one 122 mm artillery round rigged to detonate remotely using a Motorola radio.

Elsewhere, soldiers with 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division recovered an IED in front of an interpreter's home in Karbala. An explosive ordnance removal team was involved in both incidents.

Search leads to capture of 16 AIF

SAMARRA, Iraq – In the face of increased enemy attacks in the area, Iraqi and Coalition forces conducted a cordon and search to locate suspected anti-Iraq force hideouts here June 15.

Soldiers with Task Force 69 and 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th

Iraqi Army Division captured 16 suspected insurgents during the combined operation.

Patrols produce weapons, suspects

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army and police units supported by Coalition forces conducted a series of successful patrols and searches here June 15.

In one instance, a civilian directed Iraqi soldiers to a weapons cache including 20 artillery rounds. The soldiers confiscated a vehicle and detained four suspected anti-Iraq forces.

In another case, Baghdad Police conducted a cordon and search and confiscated 18 AK-47 automatic rifles, one RPK machinegun, one pistol, and two sets of body armor. Three suspected insurgents were detained, including one Egyptian.

During a cordon and knock operation, Baghdad Police also found one rocket propelled-grenade, 29 AK-47 automatic rifles, four bolt action rifles, one Demitrov automatic rifle, one motorcycle, four cases of 7.62 mm ammunition, three boxes of mortar fuses, and 15 old regime insignia stamps. Police detained seven suspects.

Police raids making an impact

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Police officers throughout the country are aggressively planning and conducting raids against anti-Iraq forces in an effort to disrupt insurgent operations.

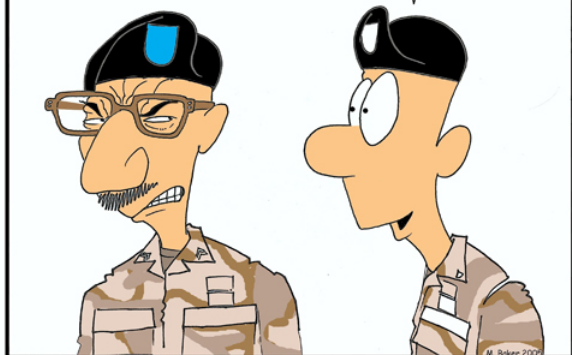
Police in Baghdad conducted several raids June 16 which resulted in the capture of a large cache, one suspected AIF member, a pair of binoculars, and seven AK-47 automatic rifles.

Police from the Al Sha'ab Station conducted a raid near the Al Kallafaa mosque June 15, securing four detainees, all believed to be associated with the AIF. All four detainees were identified as Syrians.

Elsewhere in Wasit Province, the Wasit SWAT team executed a raid in the Al Balda area June 17. The police captured 25 suspected AIF.



Whoa! DID THAT NOSE AND MUSTACHE COME WITH THOSE GLASSES?!



Did you know?

Father's Day: June 19

The idea of Father's Day was conceived by Sonora Dodd of Spokane, Wash., while she listened to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Dodd wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart, a widowed Civil War veteran who was left to raise his six children by himself on a rural farm.

June was chosen for the first Father's Day celebration — proclaimed for June 19, 1910, by Spokane's mayor — because it was the month of William Smart's birth.

The first presidential proclamation honoring fathers was issued in 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson designated the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

Father's Day has been celebrated annually since 1972 when President Richard Nixon signed the public law that made it permanent.

66.3 million - estimated number of fathers across the U.S.



2.3 million - number of single fathers, up from 393,000 in 1970.

98,000 - estimated number of stay-at-home dads.

Neckties - lead the list of Father's Day gifts.

Nearly 95 million - number of Father's Day cards expected to be given this year in the U.S., making Father's Day the fourth-largest card-sending occasion.

— U.S. Census Bureau

**Secure the
incident site.**

**A second device
could be waiting
for you.**



STAY ALIVE

0004

IEDs KILL

Iraqi equipment roll-up

**A look at some of the equipment delivered
to the Iraqi Security Forces this week**

Ammunition.....	5.4 million rounds
Body armor.....	750
AK-47s.....	13,253
Rocket-propelled grenades.....	1,246
Handguns.....	2,320
Ambulances.....	19
X-Ray vans.....	12
UAZ Jeeps.....	36
Heavy trailers.....	15
GP Mediums.....	169

— Information provided by MNSTC-I J-4